

**DISABILITY COMMISSION  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81008934107>

Call in Number: 1-315-599-0017

Wednesday August 18th 2021  
5:30-7:00p.m.

**Meeting Agenda**

- Meeting Called to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of July Minutes
- Discussion on advocacy letters
- Project Presentation: *Barriers & Supports for Students with Disabilities in Architecture Education* - **Emily Gomez**
- Chair's Report - **Olivia Richard**
- Commissioner's Report - **Kristen McCosh**
- Architectural Access Report - **Patricia Mendez**
- Announcements
- Old Business
- New Business
- Public Input

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attending:**

Alice Fisher  
Carl Richardson  
Elizabeth Dean-Clower  
Dusya Lyubovskaya

Jerry Boyd  
Olivia Richard  
Paul Caron  
Wesley Ireland  
Yardley Sanchez

**Absent:**

Juan Carlos Ramirez-Tapia  
Kyle Robidoux  
Zary Amirhosseini

**Meeting called to order:**

5:40pm

**July Meeting Minutes:**

Motion to approve was made by Carl, seconded by Dusya. The motion passed unanimously.

**Votes Taken**

- Letter to Gov. Baker and Secretary Sudders regarding vaccination rollout: discussion of this potential vote was started by Board Member Elizabeth, about the fact that the reality has changed since this was last drafted, particularly with respect to the CDC announcement about booster shots indicating that another rollout with another potential concerning prioritization list could be coming. Board Member Wesley agreed that a forward-looking sentence could be added to the letter without changing much else. Chair Olivia emphasized that the Board has been working on this letter for a while and it should go out soon. Carl made a motion to approve the drafted letter with the proviso that the Commission for Persons with Disabilities' staff add a forward-looking sentence making reference to upcoming decisions related to vaccination, such as third doses. Jerry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Letter to Mayor Janey: discussion of this draft included a question from Jerry about whether the distributed document was the most up-to-date letter,

given the April date. Andrea from the Disabilities Commission clarified that the content of the letter is up to date, reflecting the most recently requested change at the June meeting adding the priority of City Hall Plaza. Jerry made a motion to approve the drafted letter, with the proviso that the Commission for Persons with Disabilities update the date at the top of the letter to reflect the date this vote was taken. Carl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Second Thoughts MA: discussion of this letter was begun by Commissioner Kristen McCosh introducing the presenter from last month's meeting, John Kelly, who is requesting this advocacy letter be sent by the Board. John briefly reminded the Board of his organization's concern that pending legislation in the State House sends the message that "better dead than disabled" and thanked the Board for considering writing a letter in opposition to the Chairs of the relevant committee of the State Legislature. Carl made a motion to approve the letter drafted by Second Thoughts MA. Elizabeth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Other Decisions Made**

- In order to distribute the letters in a timely manner, Chair Olivia will email a digital version of her signature to the Commission who will add it to the letters then print the letters on the Advisory Board's letterhead, and then mail them.

### **Issues Discussed**

**Project Presentation:** *Barriers & Supports for Students with Disabilities in Architecture Education* - Emily Gomez

- Recently completed her degree in occupational therapy, and the research she is presenting tonight was completed during her doctoral experience, which was hosted by the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

- Background information: 25% of the US population has a disability, but there is limited research on individuals with disabilities in the architecture profession. Research shows that hiring people with disabilities can improve a company's profitability and competitiveness. For this and many other reasons, it's important to ensure inclusion and accessibility in architecture.
- Physical environment impacts people's quality of life and social interactions. An accessible environment promotes optimal functioning and well-being. Similar to architects, occupational therapists are focused on the physical environment, including modifying the physical environment to better suit the individual.
- Increasing participation in formal education is a practice in OT. Person-Environment-Occupation (PEO) model was used for research, a model focused on improving conditions on all levels in order to increase individuals' participation. In addition to identifying the barriers and supports for architecture students, the project also sought to highlight the need for interprofessional collaboration between OTs and architects, and to improve the instruction in universal design.
- Structure: two surveys were distributed, one to current students and alumni of architecture programs who had disabilities, and the other to disability support services staff at architecture schools. 8 surveys were returned, 1 from a staff member, 6 from alumni, and 1 current students.
- Results included findings in the various themes:
  - Barrier: Inaccessibility of the physical environment. Even if technically compliant, campuses are far from inclusive.
  - Barrier: Lack of awareness and training on disability. This included faculty, support staff.

- Barrier: Poor implementation of accommodations. While respondents reported having received accommodations, advertising and implementation were poorly handled.
- Barrier: Culture. Students reported that hazing and “working hard” mentality are detrimental to all students.
- Support: Community. Interpersonally, faculty, staff, and students who were willing to learn and help.
- Support: Technology and Legislation. Helped with overall education and participation in professional settings.
- Support: Accommodations and Disability Support Services. The majority felt that accommodations like interpreters, adaptive equipment, and note-taking were extremely helpful in their education.
- Recommendations: Respondents had a great deal of advice for students and future students, and highly encouraged people with disability to enter the field of architecture in order to share their lived experience with the profession, and increase awareness that accessibility can be beautiful.
- Some proposed solutions include providing additional disability training for faculty and staff, increasing focus on universal design, and altering both the physical and attitudinal environment. It was made clear that there is a need for increased representation of people with disabilities in architecture. Finally, the report calls for further research which is needed to develop specific strategies.
- Implications for OT include: OTs’ knowledge of disabilities, environmental modifications, adaptive equipment, and universal design can help architecture create truly accessible spaces for all. This indicates the need for increased interprofessional collaboration. The project therefore highlights potential practice areas for OTs including consultants for design projects,

education about disabilities, and co-designers for adaptive equipment and architectural projects.

- Emily concluded with thanks for those who helped her complete the project, and with a slide with contact information for those who have further questions.
- Questions from the Board
  - Member Dusya asked in the Zoom chat to clarify a reference on the first slide with background information, to an “(Okoro, 2018)”. Emily clarified that Okoro was the author of a paper with the statistic she was citing.
  - Member Elizabeth asked about curricula in the schools, and whether they include innovative projects or some other requirement for them to create that would encourage them to work with people with lived experiences. Specifically she asked if there were some schools better than others in terms of required projects related to inclusiveness. Emily responded that according to literature, there are classes on disabilities but not necessarily including people with disabilities. It seems to be increasingly common either in class or having students go on trips to interact with the community, but it’s pretty new within last 5 years. Previously it was essentially one course on disabilities in most places.
    - Elizabeth commented that including people with lived experience is important to avoid tokenism. In addition, with increasing attention being paid to racial inequality there has been some attention to inclusion beyond accessibility which is good.
    - Emily added that there are good models from other countries. For example, in Australia occupational therapists, architects,

and people with disabilities work together in teams. She argued that establishing a similar system here in architecture schools would be a great effort.

- Member Jerry opined that he was surprised to learn that there aren't more classes focused on universal design that are required for architecture students. Emily replied that she was also surprised, but hopes they are on the rise. She noted that one participant reported that universal design is often mentioned in a variety of settings, but it's mentioned in passing rather than being integrated into course content.
- Member Wesley asked about the small number of respondents and what kinds of disabilities were represented in the group. Emily responded that all respondents self-identified as having a disability. The few who disclosed a specific disability were mostly the alumni of the program, who reported physical and learning disabilities.
- Wesley also commented that the research appears to be primarily about physical barriers, which is a logical focus for occupational therapy, but that there is an increasing amount of important research regarding sensory and auditory disabilities and design -- for example, the importance of sight lines and visual access for Deaf people and Hard of Hearing people. Emily responded that she believes that is important and hopes that this project can and will be enhanced and expanded to include more kinds of disabilities.
- Public Input
  - David Vieira asked that contact information including name and email be announced and spelled out for Blind/Low Vision individuals or anyone calling in rather than joining by video to be able to get in touch.

- Andrea from the Disabilities Commission chimed in to explain some of the accessibility features, namely CART and how to enable the closed captioning, and the ASL interpreters and explaining that if anyone needed permission to be able to pin both interpreters they could send her a message in the chat and she could enable that.

### **Chair's Report: Olivia Richard**

- Local elections are happening. The preliminary election is on September 14, for City Council and Mayor in Boston. The deadline to register to vote in that election is August 25th at 8pm. If you need assistance you can go to [Boston.gov/election](https://www.boston.gov/election) or call 617-635-8683.
- Second, evictions are on the mind of a lot of people even with a CDC moratorium, we know people are getting deeper and deeper into arrears. Landlords cannot physically remove you without a court order - important to get that out there. There is an office that can help you in Boston, whether you live in public or private housing or use a Section 8 voucher. If you get a notice to quit or other pressure from your landlord, you can go to [Boston.gov/housing-stability](https://www.boston.gov/housing-stability), email [ohsintake@boston.gov](mailto:ohsintake@boston.gov), and if you have a pressing matter such as needing emergency shelter, you can call 617-635-4200. They have established a special fund for BHA tenants who were not eligible for the rental relief fund. Contact the Housing Stability office if you need help. We want you to keep a roof over your head, especially people with disabilities who are more likely to be evicted.

### **Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh**

- We held our ADA Day celebration in Copley and virtually last month. Almost 200 people joined, and Mayor Janey gave remarks. She made 3 major announcements related to communications access I want to reiterate here.

- The Office of Language and Communications Access ordinance was passed today, creating a standalone Office. The office will support all departments get translation and interpretation including CART and ASL. Every office has a budget for that work. OCLA will also translate vital documents.
- Second, Councilor Flynn also at today's Council Meeting, called for a hearing on requiring closed captions be enabled on all public facing TVs. Once assigned to a committee, a hearing will be scheduled and we will share information widely with disability community and businesses. We will make sure ASL and CART are provided.
- Through ARP recovery funding we are hiring a full-time, in-house, ASL interpreter. This will allow us to have ASL at press conferences, City meetings, assist constituents who walk into City Hall, and we also hope to have this person create videos to put some of the City's frequent messaging in ASL. Once the position is posted, we'll share with you and hope you'll help share that with your networks.
- Question from the Board
  - Wesley asked a clarifying question about whether the new in-house ASL interpreter position is a singular hire or a pair including a Certified Deaf Interpreter. Commissioner McCosh responded that the position will not be for a pair, but for a single hearing ASL interpreter. According to the interpreter recruiters at the Mass Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, CDIs are comparatively easy to recruit and schedule; finding a hearing ASL interpreter to pair with that is more difficult. The City still intends to conduct interpretation with ASL-CDI pairs for press conferences and the like, but with the in-house ASL interpreter on staff.
  - AVBM

- Regarding COVID and vaccine access - numbers are rising in the City, but the hospitals still have more than adequate capacity so there's no threat of lack of care at this point. As of 8/10, 68% of residents had at least one shot, and 61% were fully vaccinated. City employees and volunteers will be required to get vaccinated or tested regularly. We are following closely information about booster shots.
- Other things we're working on - employment initiatives related to National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October. Also, the Commissioner is a member of a national group of disabilities commissioners, have been for several years. We wrote a letter to Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, outlined five or six priorities of things we'd like him to work on. We were fortunate to get meeting with his staff. We're working on meeting with another member of the Biden cabinet, Dan Tsai who used to run MassHealth and is now working on Medicaid at the federal level to talk about work incentives in Medicaid. We're excited about the meeting with Walsh's staff, hoping to push him to increase opportunities and improve outcomes in employment for people with disabilities.
- Finally, on September 17th we're hosting a lunch-and-learn on disability inclusion with the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce. In Cambridge at the Multicultural Arts Center. It will be in person, although we will record it.
  - Andrea added that the event is intended as an informal networking event which is harder to do over Zoom, but we can and will move online if need be.
- In addition to the important dates and information provided by Olivia about the upcoming elections, mail in ballots are available to anyone, with no reason required to be given. The State's system for accessible vote by mail expired along with the state of emergency. That system allowed people with visual impairments and people with dexterity issues to vote from home

electronically, independently and privately. We are having meetings internally to figure out how to offer this in the City.

- Some additional dates: September 4th early voting begins and September 14th is the preliminary election. October 13th is the deadline to vote in the general election and November 2nd is the General election. I encourage everyone to register to vote and to get out to the polls.
- Questions from the Board:
  - Member Elizabeth asked about the COVID vaccine information. With this being a quick moving situation, opening again to everyone getting another shot could bring up the problems again with mass vax sites. Even with only one shot not two, will still create a challenge with masses of people vying for shots. What is the best way for people to follow up? The Commissioner responded that luckily the infrastructure is now in place, and we've learned a lot from the previous year and can better handle booster shots. The announcement about everyone getting a booster shot just came out today, and the City is just reacting.
    - Andrea clarified that a limited set of immunocompromised folks have been both recommended for third doses by the CDC and approved by the FDA. The FDA still has to review data on whether a third dose poses safety concerns for non-immunocompromised people. They have already done so for the small group of immunocompromised individuals that the CDC recommended get a third dose. The CDC recommended today that all people get a third dose, pending authorization by the FDA which they expect to happen by the end of September.

The Commission can send out the link to the CDC's announcement if folks are interested.

- The Commissioner followed up that the City doesn't have any more information at this time, but that we will keep everyone in the loop as the City makes plans for boosters.
- Elizabeth reiterated that the process from the early vaccination process of making lists of people with specific conditions didn't work out well and so it's important to continue to monitor.
- Jerry asked a question about vote by mail and whether such ballots need to be requested or whether every registered voter will receive such a ballot? The Commissioner replied that every voter will receive a request for an absentee ballot in the mail, and still have to send that application in.
- Chair Olivia asked whether the Mass Commission for the Blind or the Mass Office on Disability would do advocacy about accessible vote by mail ending. The Commissioner replied that she isn't aware of those State agencies doing any advocacy, but that other advocacy groups have been involved. Olivia expressed that it's a shame that there is a lack of state leadership on this issue. The Commissioner echoed that the Commission was disappointed that this was not continued at the state level.
- The Commissioner mentioned the Mayor's Coffee Hour program that brings City departments to parks in various neighborhoods over the coming weeks.
- The Commissioner concluded with discussion of the curb ramp settlement agreement that the City recently entered into.
  - Starting with background, the Commissioner highlighted that both old and narrow sidewalks as well as cold weather issues that cause heaving and breaking is a major challenge. In addition, sidewalks are owned by

numerous entities including the state, quasi governmental agencies, and private companies. Even so, the City has put in place strict standards for all accessibility work, including Complete Streets guidelines, a national standard, for new construction.

- Four disabilities rights advocates filed suit regarding non-compliant curb ramps in the City. Rather than going to litigation, the City voluntarily entered into an agreement, a lot of the content of which has been underway for years. The advocates continued to involve the court system to ensure the settlement is enforced.
- The City has committed to several things: hiring an ADA coordinator to oversee installation of compliant ramps; installing or upgrading 1,630 curb ramps per year; installing or upgrading curb ramps when building new sidewalks and resurfacing roads; making best efforts to investigate curb ramps request within 30 days and to install or upgrade ramps in response to those requests within a year; ensuring timely removal of snow; providing alternate accessible route when curb ramps are temporarily unavailable.
- The City will prioritize ramps at: government facilities, schools, parks, transportation corridors, medical facilities, businesses, places of employment, and residential neighborhoods.
- The Commissioner concluded with ways the Board and the public can get involved. First, the City will maintain a system for requests for installation or upgrade of ramps and will create an Implementation Plan that the public can comment on. The City will also issue annual reports regarding installation and upgrading of ramps for public review. Finally, there is a public notice of the Proposed Settlement on the City of Boston website, advertised in Globe and Herald for four consecutive weeks.

- Per the first part of the agreement, the Commissioner introduced the new ADA Coordinator in the Public Works Department, Tom Caprarella. He spoke about his background and his new role.
  - He is from Massachusetts and has been working in Colorado for several years as a civil engineer. Main focus of his work was designing and constructing ADA improvements in the public right of way. He moved back in the spring and has been working for the City of Boston since May.
  - Some responsibilities in his role include monitoring the City's progress on the pieces of the settlement agreement, inspecting all newly installed ramps in the City for compliance with ADA and MAAB standards, and documenting and reporting on them at the end of each year, putting together variance packages to file with the MAAB and helping the City review incoming project plans with a specific focus on ADA improvements.
  - Since starting, Tom noted that he has been impressed with the level of attention to detail he's seen from the City's engineers on each ramp. He feels confident that this work will greatly improve accessibility across the City.
- Commissioner McCosh noted that another colleague, John Vozzella from Public Works was also attending tonight's meeting.
- Questions from the Board:
  - Carl asked whether this settlement applies to the four historic neighborhoods. Commissioner McCosh said that yes, it applies to the entire City.
  - Jerry asked whether Tom's role is just focused on sidewalks, or on other ADA issues. Tom replied that the CREEC settlement was solely about curb ramps, but responses to 311 requests that relate to ADA

requirements will include him. Commissioner McCosh clarified that this role and Public Works' role is about the built environment like sidewalks and curb ramps, while policy and programmatic access remains with the Disabilities Commissioner.

- Carl asked about where audible pedestrian signals (APS) sit. Commissioner McCosh replied that they are not part of this project, as responsibility lies with the Transportation Department but that the Disabilities Commission works closely with BTM on signals.
- John Vozzella introduced himself - Chief Engineer in Public Works. He said that the City has been and will continue to build a team that takes accessibility seriously. He said that his team is here to help and investigate any issues. He reiterated that Tom is on staff now and ready to respond to ADA issues, crosswalks, roadway, sidewalks, he can help respond to any of them.
- More Questions from the Board:
  - Wesley asked about the snow removal requirements, and what timeline would apply to snow removal and better enforcement. Commissioner said that we are still on the big picture agreement and don't have more details on the snow removal yet, but that the Commissioner will stay in touch.
    - John added that the 1630 curb ramp commitment work has already begun.
  - Member Elizabeth commented that she's seen snow removal needs, even in intersections on fairly major streets, go unattended for days, even with reports to 311. Emphasized the importance for giving us more detail on how snow removal enforcement will work.
- Public Input:

- Attendee John Kelly asked whether newly constructed sidewalks will be built with sawcut joints for smoother riding, rather than hand-formed seams.
  - John responded that we still have tool joints in the City. Contractors could do sawcut but in that process it can be difficult in the City. More common where there is fencing and less pedestrian access. Agree that sawcut joints create a better surface, but right now there are still tool joints.
- Attendee David asked for the Commission to share Tom's contact information, which was entered into the chat and read aloud.  
[tom.caprarella@boston.gov](mailto:tom.caprarella@boston.gov).
  - David also asked for an update on the bike safety project the Commission had been working on. The Commissioner said that it has been on hold with other priorities, although we have been working closely with BTM. They had created videos regarding crossing and parking next to a protected bike line. We had been working with them to create videos about biking safely for people with disabilities and need to reconnect with the team. Haven't made a lot of progress given a lack of capacity. Also have a grant that needs to be spent by the end of the year.
  - David expressed dismay that progress hasn't been made about making bikers obey the standard rules of the road, a concern he's been advocating about for 3 years. He relayed a personal experience with a biker violating a red light and almost striking him in the crosswalk. He advocated for the Commission to stress with BTM the need to pull bikers over and instruct them regarding the rules of the road, from signals to going the wrong

way on a one-way street, and cycling in areas where they are banned like the Public Garden.

- Member Wesley added he witnessed a great deal of policing on a recent visit to New York City and recommended that Boston increase that effort.
- Commissioner McCosh thanked both David and Wesley for their input and said the Commission could reach out to BPD.

### **Architectural Access Report – Patricia Mendez**

- Patricia introduced herself, the Director of Architectural Access for the Boston Disability Commission. She explained her presentation would be an overview of architectural access work, focused on three groups - the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (AAB), the City's Public Improvement Commission (PIC), and the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA).
  - The AAB investigates complaints about accessibility, reviews and decides about variances, and promulgates regulations. The City's Disabilities Commission has a seat on the AAB, which Patricia holds in which role she is Vice Chair.
  - The PIC is a City body that reviews work being done on Boston's public sidewalks and oversees sidewalk use, such as outdoor cafe set ups. It comments on speciality designs in the public right of way. The Disabilities Commission also has a seat on this body, filled by Sarah Leung.
  - The BPDA reviews and approves new construction, requires developers to complete the Disabilities Commission's accessibility checklist, and their work includes transportation, resilience and

sustainability. The BPDA also offers LEED credit for improving accessibility.

- Patricia then offered more detail on each of these three boards, starting with the AAB.
  - Because the AAB investigates accessibility complaints, the Disabilities Commission sends access issues to the AAB and shares complaint forms with the public. In its role reviewing variances, the AAB refers projects to the Disabilities Commission for technical assistance, especially older existing buildings that lack access. The AAB also solicits input from the Disabilities Commission and other accessibility advocates. The AAB makes decisions at biweekly public meetings, currently being held virtually. The AAB also publishes the accessibility regulations that are part of the State Building Code and enforced in Boston by the Inspectional Services Department. The Disabilities Commission also provides technical assistance to special projects under the authority of the AAB such as outdoor dining, construction alternative routes etc.
  - The PIC owns and manages Boston's public and private rights-of-way such as sidewalks. The PIC has biweekly virtual meetings to review and vote on developers' proposals for doing work on Boston's sidewalks and streets. In 2020 the Disabilities Commission was appointed as a voting member, and Sarah Leung is the designee. The Disabilities Commission gives technical assistance to developers proposing sidewalk works, focusing on specialty designs and materials (e.g. pavers versus brick). The Disabilities Commission's work centers the needs of all pedestrians, especially people with disabilities.
  - The BPDA reviews new construction through the Article 80 process (projects that are more than 20,000 square feet). When developers

apply, they have to complete the accessibility checklist that the Disabilities Commission created. The Commission gives input and technical assistance to developers in response to the information from meetings and the Checklist. The Commission collaborates with planning and transportation initiatives run by the BPDA, as well as the resiliency and sustainability initiatives and guidelines.

- Patricia concluded by discussing ways that members of the public (as individuals and as the Advisory Board as a group) can get involved including: attending AAB meetings and offering comments, filing complaints for review by the AAB, and reviewing AAB variance applications and submitting comments; attending the PIC's public meetings, advocating to the Disabilities Commission for particular sidewalk priorities, and writing letters to the PIC expressing appreciation or concern regarding sidewalk work; and for the BPDA, attending community meetings and providing input, submitting written comments on specific projects, and inviting developers to Advisory Board meetings to discuss accessibility issues and review their responses to the Disabilities Commission's Accessibility Checklist.
- Questions from the Board: none
- Comment from Commissioner McCosh: The Disabilities Commission wants to have the Advisory Board involved in architectural access work. At one time there was a subcommittee of the Board focused on architectural access, which we could support if the Board decides to renew. In addition, for some time the Chair received paper copies of variance applications.
  - Jerry confirmed that when he was Chair he received them and had venues for responding to them.
  - The Disabilities Commission will contact MOD so that Olivia can get paper copies as well, since she does not currently.

- The Commissioner also offered to share all Accessibility Checklist responses with the Board and/or an architectural access subcommittee.

### **Announcements**

- Patricia announced that there is an available training, Community Accessibility Monitor (CAM) training, offered by the Mass Office on Disability. She offered to organize a training for the Advisory Board and asked who might be interested in participating. There are 2 parts, the first is four hours and the second is a little less. It would be free and virtual.
  - Carl mentioned that he took the training several years ago and highly recommends it as worthwhile.
  - Chair Olivia indicated interest verbally. Member Dusya also indicated interest in the chat.
- Jerry highlighted the Disabilities Commission recent 6 week financial empowerment program with the Boston Public Schools, commenting that it seemed like a wonderful program, and he would like to hear more about it from the Commissioner in a future meeting.
  - The Commissioner promised to provide more information at the September meeting, but briefly mentioned that the program came out of the grant funding that five cities (Boston, New York, LA, San Francisco, and Boston) received from Citi Bank for financial empowerment programs. We provided training to transition age students, 18-22, who are working on their next steps after high school. Training made them aware of different bank products, credit practices, and basic financial literacy. Each student received \$100 seed money to open an account. The Commission still has funding and intends to continue in the fall.

- Jerry asked if there is someone that would benefit from the program, could Board Members reach out to the Disabilities Commission, to which the Commissioner responded yes.

### **Old Business**

- Wesley - asked about an old action item, sending a survey regarding disability issues to the Mayoral candidates.
  - The Commission and Executive Committee responded that the Committee was planning to reach out to BCIL to partner on the creation and dissemination of such a survey, as the Commission cannot engage in campaign activities of this sort.
  - Chair Olivia said she would reach out to BCIL on this issue.

### **New Business**

- None.

### **Public Input:**

- David Viera -
  - OML requires roll call vote of members, intros at top of meeting might count. Please anytime someone speaks repeat first name and last name for Blind/Low Vision people to follow who is speaking.
  - Janey letter is dated in April. Now it's August. David argued that it is disingenuous to call it a "welcome letter" when someone has been in office for 6 months. He asked the Commission to prioritize these time sensitive issues.
  - Jerry thanked David for the reminder to announce names, that it's important for accessibility.

- John Kelly commented that he was disappointed in the response from the Public Works Department about sawcut versus hand-formed joints. Argued that sawcut joints can be done without fencing, for example there is a sidewalk along the Fenway, and another little park near his home, that were recently constructed that way. Argues that the hand-formed joints can cause intense discomfort and pain for people in a wheelchair, with cracks as wide as an inch. Recognizing that it is a little more expensive, it makes all the difference in the world. In personal experience, John reported that when he sees hand-formed cracks he instead travels in the street which is more dangerous and traumatic being worried about getting hit by a car. He advocated for sawcut joints being the mandated standard.
  - Commissioner McCosh commented that the City always advocates for sawcut joints when working with private developers, although it isn't a City standard, but that the Commission can revisit it in the ongoing collaboration with the Public Works Department.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Carl, seconded by Jerry, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.